Wealth Markets and Commerce

Japanese Iron and Steel Imports Set New Record

The importation of iron and steel into Japan made a new record in September, 1917, says the American commercial attaché at Tokio. In that month $13,000,000 worth of the principal kinds of iron and steel were imported at the twenty leading ports, while in August the imports of all iron and steel at all Japanese ports amounted to less than $10,000,000 in value.

Iron and steel bars, plates and sheets have displaced for the first time cotton in the imports into Japan from the United States. Together these items represent just two-thirds of all American goods purchased by Japan. During the eight months, January to August, 1917, the value of the imports of cotton into Japan from the United States was $30,615,000, or 20 per cent of the total imports from the United States, while the value of the iron and steel bars, plates and sheets amounted to $36,876,000, or 24 per cent of the imports from the United States.

In quantity the disproportion was far greater. Iron and steel from the United States weighed over 390,000 long tons, four times as much as the cotton.

Finance - Economics

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Wednesday, October 31, 1917

A week ago it seemed that the liquidation which had carried stock prices down to the lowest levels of the year, and, in some cases, to the lowest levels for many years, had run its course. Apparently, it had only been suspended, for, since the beginning of this week, the market has been under constant pressure. Each day there has been a sharp decline, partially offset by rallies toward the close, but with the same net result, as was witnessed with monotonous regularity through the greater part of September and October; that is, a fractional net loss. Gauged by the averages, the day-to-day decline is unimportant; it is only by comparison over a considerable period that the extent of the slump can be realized. In the past two months, the average of fifteen high-grade stocks has dropped 12 points, while twelve representative industrials are off 9 points in the same period. Since the beginning of June the rails have lost about 18 points and the industrials nearly 20 points. At present quotations, the rails are 32 points below the level at which they stood at the beginning of 1914—which was, it may be recalled, a period of depression—and the average of industrials is a fraction lower than it was then, in spite of the fact that a number of the issues contained in the tabulation have profited hugely from war orders. Some persons are disposed to attribute the fall in stock prices to short selling, and that, no doubt, has been an important influence at times; but it is obvious that only real liquidation of tremendous volume could have caused such a drastic decline as has occurred. The principal point of uncertainty is as to the source of the selling. Much of the selling a few weeks ago was undoubtedly for the account of rich men, who, foreseeing the decline, got out from under by disposing of large blocks of their corporate security holdings and buying government bonds with the proceeds. Some of them frankly admit that they did so. Now, they say quite as frankly that they are not selling stocks at present, and do not intend to sell them at the prevailing price level. If that is true, then the liquidation must be coming from small holders throughout the country, because large institutions also deny that they are pressing securities for sale. But brokerage houses will tell you that the small holders are not selling in important volume, and in support of this statement they point to the fact that the balance of purchases over sales of odd lots is substantial. Nevertheless, it is certain that a constant dribble of investment holding comes into the market, swelling in volume with each unfavorable bit of news.

Wall Street was disturbed by a rumor that the Stock Exchange would fix minimum prices for securities. The rumor was suggested, of course, by the action of the Canadian exchanges, and otherwise it seemed to be without foundation. Officials of the board denied emphatically that any such action was contemplated. Nevertheless, the matter is being seriously discussed in the financial district. On the whole, opinion is decidedly against such action. While the fixing of minima would be justified in the event of a crisis, there seems to be no occasion for doing so as long as the market remains orderly. In the first place, it would necessitate the declaration of a moratorium on collateral loans, which the banks would hardly approve, and, in the second place, it would not prevent quotations from going lower. Minimum prices on the exchange would be just as much of a fiction as they were in 1914, when an outlaw market quickly sprang up in New Street.

There is nothing new in the statement that Stock Exchange officials have "interrogated of late several houses as to the source of their selling orders." For at least six weeks officials of the board have been investigating practically all important sales with a view to determining how much of the selling was really "bear raiding." The results have been astonishing in some cases. There have been occasions when practically every one in the Street was putting the blame for price declines on "bear raiding" when heavy selling of long stock was really causing the trouble. Instances of "bear raiding" have been discovered from time to time, and the raiders have been warned to stop. Some of them have heeded the warning. In any event, it would be unnecessary to resort to minimum prices to stop short selling, when a much simpler and far less drastic measure would be quite as effective. The governors of the exchange could prohibit the borrowing and lending of stocks among its members, under heavy penalty.

Our Foreign Trade

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31.—American exports in September totalled $456,201,567, according to a statement issued to-day by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce. This is a decrease of approximately $24,000,000, compared with August, but a gain of $80,000,000 as compared with July. For the nine months ended with September the total exports were $4,607,517,178, a gain of $657,000,000 over the similar period in 1916.

Imports in September also fell off, the total being $236,196,838, as compared with $270,509,379 in August. The total imports for the nine months ended with September were $2,282,794,503, a gain of $450,000,000 over the corresponding nine months in 1916.

The imports of gold in September totalled $4,171,535; the exports, $31,332,396. For the nine months ended with September the imports of gold were $528,332,442 and the exports $348,[illegible].

Imports of silver in September are reported as $5,796,320, and the exports as $10,465,679. For the nine months' period silver to the amount of $33,050,102 was imported, while the exports totalled $62,233,662.

Railroad Earnings

The first of the important railroad operating statements for the month of September were issued yesterday, showing contra-distinct tendencies in the earnings. On the whole, however, the exhibit was unfavorable, the majority of the roads reporting substantial declines in net earnings, compared with a year ago, despite large increases in gross revenues.

The Pennsylvania Railroad system on its lines east of Pittsburgh reported total operating revenue of $30,521,712 in September, an increase of $4,725,974 over a year ago. Total operating expenses increased $4,312,615, to $23,067,301. Net income amounted to $7,454,411, an increase of $413,359. On the Pennsylvania lines west of Pittsburgh, total revenues were $14,152,280, an increase of $834,982. Net income totaled $2,902,231, a decrease of $828,516. Combined gross revenues of the system, lines east and west, aggregated $44,673,993, an increase of $5,560,967. Net totalled $10,356,642, a decrease of $415,156, compared with September, 1916. In the nine months ended September 30 the Pennsylvania lines reported net of $72,907,749, a decrease of $11,917,022 compared with the corresponding period of last year.

September gross revenues of the Norfolk & Western Railroad aggregated $5,719,694, an increase of $597,512 over a year ago. Net income after taxes totalled $1,678,858, a decrease of $139,798.

The Southern Pacific system reported total operating revenues of $17,156,201, an increase of $1,948,451. Operating expenses in September increased $1,080,022 over a year ago. Taxes aggregated $4,107,298, an increase of $3,474,511, due principally to including in the accounts of September $3,312,000 representing approximately nine-twelfths of the estimated taxes for the entire year of 1917 resulting from the war revenue act. Except for this large tax charge Southern Pacific's net in September would have shown an increase of $706,500 compared with a year ago. The road reports for the nine months total operating income of $44,034,669, compared with $56,904,007 in the corresponding period of 1916.

Gross earnings of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul in September amounted to $10,382,216, an increase of [illegible],937 compared with a year ago. [illegible]enses increased $1,655,936 to $8,[illegible]. Net after taxes amounted to $2,196,338, a decrease of $1,420,999 compared with September last year.

Money and Credit

Money rates underwent no important change in the local market yesterday, following the announcement that the so-called "money committee" appointed to see that all proper requirements were promptly met and at reasonable interest rates during the recent loan offering would be continued helped sentiment. Call money at the Stock Exchange was in fairly liberal supply at 4 per cent.

Fixed date loans were in less demand, owing to the stock market liquidation, but as offerings continued light rates were not reduced. On loans based on industrial securities brokers quoted 5¼ to 5¾ per cent yesterday for practically all maturities.

Ruling rates for money yesterday, compared with a year ago, were as follows:

	Yesterday.	Year ago.
Call money....	4%	2¼%
Time money (mixed collateral):		
60 days....	5¼@5½%	3 %
90 days....	5¼@5½%	3¼%
4 months....	5½@5¾%	3¼%
5 to 6 mos..	5½@5¾%	3½%

Commercial Paper.—Rates remained unchanged at 5½ to 5¾ per cent yesterday, with only a few institutions buying.

Official rates of discount for each of the twelve Federal districts are as follows:

	15 or less	Over 15 up to 30	Over 30 to 60	Over 60 to 90
Boston	3½	4	4	4
New York	3½	4	4	4
Philadelphia	3½	4	4	4
Cleveland	3½	4	4	4½
Richmond	3½	4	4	4½
Atlanta	3½	4	4	4½
Chicago	3½	4	4	4
St. Louis	3½	4	4	4½
Minneapolis	4	4	4½	5
Kansas City	4	4	4½	4½
Dallas	3½	4	4	4½
San Francisco	3½	4	4	4

Bank Clearings.—The day's clearings at New York and other cities:

	Exchanges.	Balances.
New York	$593,315,177	$61,497,985
Baltimore	7,872,790	1,191,357
Boston	56,828,221	15,744,990
Chicago	80,611,648	4,384,756
Philadelphia	59,331,272	10,998,918
St. Louis	25,540,520	5,871,408

Sub-Treasury.—New York banks lost to the Sub-Treasury $41,000.

Gold Currents.—Imports of gold into the United States in September, according to the Department of Commerce at Washington, aggregated $4,171,535. Gold exports totalled $31,332,396. A large part of the gold shipped out of the country was exported prior to the embargo which became effective September 10.

Silver.—Bars in London, 45¾d, down ¼d; New York, 90½c, a decrease of ½c; Mexican dollars, unchanged.

The Dollar in Foreign Exchange

Italian exchange underwent slight improvement yesterday following announcement that the United States government had advanced $230,000,000 to the credit of the Italian government. Scandinavian and Dutch rates were firm. The rest of the market was dull. Closing rates yesterday, compared with a week ago, are given in the table below. American bankers have suspended all dealings in German and Austrian exchange, so that daily quotations for either marks or kronen are no longer available.

	Yesterday.	Week ago.
(Quoted dollars to the pound.)		
Sterling, demand......	$4.75 7/16	$4.75 7/16
Sterling, sixty days....	4.71½	4.71½
Sterling cables.........	4.76 7/16	4.76 7/16
Sterling, ninety days..	4.69½	4.69½
(Quoted units to the dollar.)		
Francs, demand........	5.76	5.78
Francs, cables.........	5.74	5.76¼
Lire, checks...........	7.95	7.85
Lire, cables...........	7.94	7.84
Swiss, checks..........	4.52	4.59
Swiss, cables..........	4.50	4.57
(Quoted cents to the unit.)		
Guilders, checks.......	45¾	42¾
Guilders, cables.......	46	43
Rubles, cables.........	13.75	13.70
Stockholm, kr., checks..	42.25	38.25
Copenhagen, kr., ch'ks.	35.75	32.25
Pesetas, checks........	23.60	23.35

Below is given the current exchange value of foreign money in dollars and cents, together with the intrinsic gold parity, as calculated by the United States Mint:

	Current exchange value.	Intrinsic value.
Pounds, sterling......	$4.75 7/16	$4.86⅝
Francs	0.17.4	0.19.3
Guilders	0.45¾	0.40.2
Rubles	0.13.75	0.51.2
Lire, checks.........	0.12.5	0.19.3
Crowns (Denmark)....	0.35.75	0.26.8
Crowns (Sweden)......	0.42.25	0.26.8

The above rates express the cost of foreign money in terms of the American dollar. You buy an English pound sterling at, say, $4.75 7/16. The intrinsic parity is $4.86⅝ per pound. Thus, you say either that pounds are at a discount or that dollars are at a premium, which is owing to the fact that in England the demand for dollars with which to settle accounts in this country is greater than the demand in this country for pounds with which to settle accounts in England.

Oscar Cooper Heads N. Y. County Bank

Control of Institution, Founded in 1855, Passes to Leland Estate

Oscar Cooper, who has been connected with the new business department of the Guaranty Trust Company, was yesterday elected president of the New York County National Bank. This office has been vacant since the death of the former president, Francis L. Leland. It is understood that with the election of Mr. Cooper control of the bank has passed to the Leland estate.

Since he was graduated from Harvard University in 1899, Mr. Cooper has been engaged in banking, after practising law in San Francisco. About a year ago he went to the Guaranty Trust Company and for a time represented them in California.

The New York County National Bank is one of the oldest banks in this city, having been incorporated in 1855. It has deposits of approximately $10,000,000, capital of $500,000 and surplus and undivided profits of $1,500,000.

The State of Trade

Retail trade is very good because all classes have money and are spending freely. The public has not yet paid heed to appeals to reduce consumption. The railroads are becoming congested with freight, though they are moving more than ever before, which proves the activity of general trade. Banks have increased their loans and discounts without difficulty to finance this commercial activity. In a few instances manufacturers complain of shortage of raw and semi-finished materials.—*The American Exchange National Bank.*

Copfer on Farmers' Needs

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31.—Members of the special committee on legislation of the Farm Mortgage Bankers' Association, representing holders of approximately $1,000,000,000 in mortgages on American farms, conferred to-day with the Federal Farm Loan Board to devise methods by which private mortgage capital may cooperate with the Federal Loan banks in meeting the farmers' needs. Another conference will be held Friday.

Stock Exchange Dealings Under Close Scrutiny

Minimum Prices Are Not Contemplated, Officials Declare

The Dow, Jones & Co. news ticker yesterday printed the following:

"New York Stock Exchange authorities have interrogated of late several houses as to the source of their selling orders. Any stock market raiding or extended short selling will be dealt with, and, if necessary, minimum prices may be resorted to, as on Canadian and European exchanges. The Stock Exchange authorities are watching the situation closely."

Governors of the Stock Exchange who were questioned yesterday regarding the possibility of fixing minimum prices in order to check the decline in market prices denied with emphasis the suggestion that such a thing had even been considered.

Operations Carefully Watched

One governor branded the spreading of reports of this character as a part of the pro-German propaganda. Another went so far as to attribute the suggestion of minimum prices as having originated with big bear operators.

Stock Exchange authorities admitted, however, that they were carefully watching all operations that savored of professional short selling on a large scale. In fact, for several weeks now strenuous efforts have been made to stop operations of this character. Such efforts, officials of the exchange have asserted on various occasions of late, have been successful.

Bankers Want Open Market

In important banking circles the opinion was expressed yesterday that it would be unwise at this time to fix minimum prices on securities. It was pointed out that this would be tantamount to declaring a moratorium on Stock Exchange loans. Bankers held that a free and open market should be maintained just as long as trading proceeded in an orderly manner. The adjustment of prices is inevitable, it was asserted, as industry and finance feel the effects of the war.

Dealings on the Stock Exchange yesterday exceeded a million shares. The total was 1,124,000 shares. Stocks broke sharply for a time under pressure of heavy selling. Steel common fell to 99⅝, equalling the low made early last month. Other representative stock issues lost 2 and 3 points and more, after which prices rallied. Steel recovered to a close of 100¾, with a total turnover of 365,000 shares.

Automobile Sales Show Big Gain

Chevrolet Motor Company Disposes of 95,084 Cars in Nine Months

A statement issued yesterday by W. C. Durant, president of the Chevrolet Motor Company, said that operations of the corporation for the nine months ended September 30 "have been most satisfactory." Sales to October 1, according to the president, showed an increase of 87 per cent over the corresponding period of 1916.

The figures issued by Mr. Durant showed 95,084 cars sold in the first nine months of the current year, with a cash value of $48,178,325. In the corresponding period of 1916 51,070 cars were sold, of a cash value of $24,793,727.

The General Motors Corporation, controlling interest in which is owned by the Chevrolet company, reports a total of 35,263 cars and trucks sold in the two months ended September 30, compared with 24,936 in the corresponding period of 1916. Net sales aggregated $35,168,000, compared with $21,480,000 a year ago; undivided profits, $6,375,000, against $4,371,475 in August and September of 1916. Cash in bank and in sight drafts, with documents, on October 23 amounted to approximately $21,650,000, according to Mr. Durant's statement.

Northwest Roads to Ask Rate Increase

ST. PAUL, Oct. 31.—Transcontinental railroads centring in St. Paul are soon to ask for an increase in freight rates, it was said to-day.

W. P. Kenney, vice-president of the Great Northern, in charge of traffic, said that the roads "face the same situation that prevails in all business these days—the rapidly increasing cost of labor and materials."

A call for a conference to decide on the request is expected soon.

Significant Relations

Money and Prices:			
	Now		A year ago
Stock of money gold in the country..	$3,060,991,378		$2,548,241,473
	Sept. 11, 1917.		Nearest period last year.
Loans of all national banks	$9,055,000,000		$7,859,837,000
Their surplus reserve	Not available.		891,000,000
	Last week.		A year ago.
Bills discounted and bought by Federal Reserve Banks	$557,684,000		$107,216,000
Federal Reserve notes in circulation	847,506,000		214,622,000
Total gold reserve	1,503,436,000		*535,959,000
	Yesterday.	The day before.	A year ago.
Average price of 15 railroad stocks	93.69	94.76	123.40
Average price of 12 industrial stocks	81.56	82.44	106.27
	Last week.	The week before.	A year ago.
Food cost of living (Annalist index number)	277.481	280.205	196.512
Production:			
	Oct. 1.	Sept. 1.	A year ago.
Unfilled U. S. Steel orders, tons	9,833,477	10,407,049	9,552,584
	September.	August.	A year ago.
Pig iron (daily average), tons	104,465	104,772	106,746
	September.	August.	A year ago.
Active cotton spindles	33,555,698	33,430,016	32,340,189
	1917 yield, estimated.		The 1916 crop.
Wheat crop, bushels	659,800,000		639,886,000
Corn crop, bushels	3,210,800,000		2,593,241,000
Cotton crop, bales	12,499,000		11,356,944
Distribution:			
	Oct. 1.	Sept. 1.	A year ago.
Net unfilled freight car requisitions	70,380	34,605	60,697
	Increase or decrease: Second week of Oct. (33 roads)	Increase or decrease: Month of Aug. (177 roads)	Increase or decrease: Year, Jan. 1 to Aug. 31 (177 roads)
Gross railroad earnings	+10.8%	+11.9%	+12.1%
	Last week.	Month.	Year to date.
Bank clearings	+22%	+12%	+21.3%
	September.	August.	A year ago.
Commercial failures	963	1,149	1,154

*Gold held by Reserve agents against circulation included in general fund beginning June 23, 1917. For purposes of comparison it is included in the 1916 figures.

Connecticut Brass Plants Are Merged

New Concern To Be Capitalized for $3,000,000—To Issue Notes

The Connecticut Brass Corporation and the Pilling Brass Company, it was announced yesterday, have been merged into one concern to be known as the Connecticut Brass and Manufacturing Corporation. The new company will be capitalized with $600,000 8 per cent first preferred stock, $400,000 8 per cent second preferred, both $100 par value, and $2,000,000 common stock of $10 par. None of the first preferred is to be outstanding, according to the company's announcement, and will be held in reserve for the conversion of $600,000 two-year 6 per cent notes, which are to be issued.

The Connecticut Brass Corporation was formed last year by John E. Liggett, of Liggett & Drexel, to take over an industry which had been in operation at West Cheshire, Conn., for sixty years. The Pilling Brass Company has its plant at Waterbury. The plant at West Cheshire manufactures heavy coarse brass, while the plant at Waterbury is the largest manufacturer in the country of thin-rolled brass. The two companies have a combined smelting capacity of 2,500,000 pounds of finished brass.

Consolidated earnings for the year ended September 30 showed gross of $3,532,431, operating expenses of $2,963,016, and net earnings of $579,414.

Relevant Facts

November Disbursements.—Dividend and interest disbursements this month will aggregate $172,678,663, according to the compilation of "The Journal of Commerce." This will compare with $161,955,000 in November, 1916. One hundred and thirty-six corporations will distribute among stockholders the sum of $69,508,000, a decrease of $1,146,000 from a year ago. The returns are featured by fewer large and extra disbursements than in November of last year. Interest payments will approximate $103,170,000, against $91,200,000 a year ago. The large increase is due to the fact that interest is due today on the $300,000,000 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland 5½ per cent secured gold notes, and is also on the $12,000,000 City of Lyons 6 per cent notes, and the $12,000,000 City of Marseilles 6 per cent notes.

October Financing.—With the United States government monopolizing the capital market with the second Liberty Loan operation, the output of bonds, notes and stocks by American corporations in October totalled only $49,205,000, compared with $110,000,000 a year ago. The following table shows the total of new issues in October and the ten months, compared with a year ago:

	1917.	1916.
—October—		
Railroads..	$9,266,000	$17,284,700
Tractions...	300,000	33,196,500
Pub. utilities	9,100,000	9,898,300
M'f'g co'nies—		
Iron & st'l.	3,250,000	14,150,000
Textiles...	400,000	
Miscel....	18,054,000	23,060,200
Miscellaneous	8,835,000	13,370,200
Total.....	$49,205,000	$110,959,900
—For ten months—		
Railroads...	$431,803,200	$579,614,100
Tractions...	75,147,600	132,769,600
Pub. utilities	226,211,300	337,159,900
M'f'g co'nies—		
Iron & st'l.	120,700,000	135,926,500
Textiles...	16,025,000	16,210,300
Miscel....	274,260,200	308,666,500
Miscellaneous	253,765,500	313,439,300
Total.....	$1,397,912,800	$1,823,786,200

Savage Arms Corporation.—This company reports total earnings of $845,829 for the quarter ended September 30, compared with $462,105 for the previous quarter and $2,031,858 for the three months ended March 31 last. The balance available for dividends on the common stock was $564,486. For the nine months endi[illegible] September the company earr[illegible] the equivalent of $25.40 a share o[illegible] the junior shares.

Eastern Steel.—Directors have declared an extra dividend of 5 per cent on the common stock in addition to the regular quarterly disbursement of 2½ per cent on the common shares and 1¾ per cent on the first and second preferred stocks. The extra dividend is payable December 1 to stockholders of record November 17; common dividend January 15 to stockholders of record January 2, and first and second preferred stock dividend December 15 to stockholders of record December 1.

United States Rubber.—Samuel P. Colt, president of the United States Rubber Company, issued the following statement yesterday relative to the company's recent offer to redeem the outstanding balance of several issues of bonds: "Under our offer of October 8 to holders of United States Rubber ten-year collateral trust sinking fund 6s, Morgan & Wright and Canadian Consolidated Rubber Company 5 per cent debentures, to buy the same on about a 3.85 per cent interest basis, out of a total of approximately $12,000,000 of the three issues $7,000,000 were surrendered for redemption. It will be recalled that we made the offer at that time in the hope that it would facilitate subscriptions to the second Liberty Loan. I have reason to believe that a substantial part of the proceeds was so reinvested. The funds for the redemption of these bonds were set aside for that purpose when we sold $60,000,000 5s to Kuhn, Loeb & Co. early in the year."

Crude Petroleum Movement.—A summary of crude petroleum movement from field sources for September, as compiled by the United States Geological Survey, from reports received from 162 pipe line and refining companies prior to noon of September 27, 1917, gives the distribution as follows: Appalachian, $1,962,094; Lima-Indiana, $269,497; Illinois, $1,270,808; Oklahoma-Kansas, $13,163,153; Central and North Texas, $982,086; North Louisiana, $822,362; Gulf coast, $2,127,161; Rocky Mountain, $815,099.

Crude petroleum delivered to refineries or consumers was: Appalachian, $1,878,837; Lima-Indiana, $453,390; Illinois, $1,270,193; Oklahoma-Kansas, $14,403,216; Central and North Texas, $890,565; North Louisiana, $1,053,142; Gulf coast, $2,371,622; Rocky Mountain, $883,809.

Stocks of crude petroleum at the end of the month were: Appalachian, $4,433,040; Lima-Indiana, $2,041,024; Illinois, $3,927,960; Oklahoma-Kansas, $99,738,503; Central and North Texas, $3,087,071; North Louisiana, $3,445,160; Gulf coast, $9,123,674; Rocky Mountain, $567,880.

War Board Puts Price Fixing Up To Steel Makers

Suggestion to Abrogate Contracts Meets With Strong Protest

Developments in the iron and steel industry indicate that the War Industries Board is taking a minor position in recent price fixing, according to "The Iron Age." That a broad spirit of confidence is reposed in the representatives of the steel makers is the conclusion of this publication, which adds:

"The trade may accordingly expect schedules of prices with spreads commensurate with those of the prices already established. Like the extras just promulgated, recognized trade practices will undoubtedly be followed, even to adopting the minor departures which the special demands coming originally from Europe brought into being. Meanwhile prices have been dropping toward levels which are regarded as marking the new maxima."

"The Iron Trade Review" says that it is still an open question whether fixing of prices yet untouched by Federal action will be done through government edict or market adjustment. Further deliberation over the suggestion of the Federal Trade Commission as to a possible abrogation of contracts has resulted, it is said, in a storm of protest from the steel industry and business generally.

"The strongest argument against the inviting of commercial chaos by such a step," "The Iron Trade Review" adds, "is that the latter is unnecessary to aid the government to obtain material, nor would it insure more equitable distribution of the restricted tonnage open to private buyers."

As to current conditions in the iron and steel trade "The Iron Age" says that the low rate at which business has been booked for some months and the relative smallness of the specific orders for ship and shell material have lightened order books.

News Digest

Foreign

London Market Quiet.—LONDON, Oct. 31.—The Stock Exchange chiefly discussed the financial statement of the Chancellor, which was considered to have made a better show than had been anticipated. Reports that the government is to appoint a committee to inquire into the practicability of the issue of premium bonds raised the hope that these bonds will be available shortly. The market was steady and cheerful. Business was along narrow lines in view of to-morrow's holiday. Gilt edged securities maintained their previous levels. Oil shares, Argentine rails and shipping shares were firm.

Bank Holiday at London.—LONDON, Oct. 31.—The Stock Exchange will be closed to-morrow, a bank holiday.

Paris Bourse.—PARIS, Oct. 31.—Trading was inactive on the Bourse today. Three per cent rentes, 60 francs 75 centimes for cash. Exchange on London, 27 francs 18 centimes. Five per cent loan, 88 francs 75 centimes. The Bourse will remain closed until Monday, November 5.

Other Cities

Increases Capital Stock.—TRENTON, Oct. 31.—The Western Electrical Instrument Company, of Frelinghuysen and Weston Avenues, Newark, to-day filed with the Secretary of State a certificate increasing its capital stock from $1,000,000 to $1,500,000.

Public Service of Illinois.—An issue of $1,500,000 two-year 6 per cent notes of this company has been purchased by Lee, Higginson & Co. and Halsey, Stuart & Co. The notes are secured by $2,000,000 first and refunding 5 per cent bonds, and will be offered at about 97½, to yield 7⅜ per cent.

Corporation Returns

Pennsylvania Railroad

	1917.	1916.
September gross	$22,998,821	$19,969,556
Net after taxes......	5,063,771	5,211,062

Pennsylvania Company

	1917.	1916.
September gross	$7,190,354	$6,950,912
Net after taxes.......	1,550,427	2,056,158

Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis

	1917.	1916.
September gross	$6,166,836	$5,656,330
Net after taxes.......	1,179,328	1,509,245

Philadelphia, Baltimore & Washington

	1917.	1916.
September gross	$3,182,004	$2,230,242
Net after taxes.......	939,331	550,869

Long Island

	1917.	1916.
September gross	$1,910,499	$1,458,491
Net after taxes.......	763,681	526,970

Wabash

	1917.	1916.
September gross	$3,541,720	$3,309,717
Net	1,158,530	1,230,207

Consolidated Gas, Electric Light & Power of Baltimore.—Report for the quarter ended September 30, 1917, compares as follows:

	1917.	1916.
Gross	$2,140,054	$1,822,392
Net after taxes.......	964,645	823,421
Surplus after charges..	456,619	452,298

Dividends

Southern Pipe Line.—Regular quarterly dividend of $6 a share, payable December 1 to stockholders of record November 15.

International Harvester of New Jersey.—Regular quarterly dividend of 1¾ per cent on the preferred stock, payable December 1 to stockholders of record November 10.

International Harvester Corporation.—Regular dividend of 1¾ per cent on the preferred stock, payable December 1 to stockholders of record November 10.

J. G. White Management Corporation.—Regular quarterly dividend of 1¾ per cent on the preferred stock, payable December 1 to stockholders of record November 15.

J. G. White Engineering Corporation.—Regular quarterly dividend of 1¾ per cent on the preferred stock, payable December 1 to stockholders of record November 15.

J. G. White & Co.—Regular quarterly dividend of 1½ per cent on the preferred stock, payable December 1 to stockholders of record November 15.

Savage Arms Corporation.—Regular quarterly dividend of 1¾ per cent on the first preferred, 1½ per cent on the second preferred and 1½ per cent on the common stock, all payable December 15 to stockholders of record November 30.

Nashawena Mills.—Quarterly dividend of $2 a share, payable November 6.

Nonquitt Spinning.—Regular quarterly dividend of $2 a share and an extra dividend of $2 a share, payable November 6.

Burdette Oxygen.—Quarterly dividend of 1 per cent on the common stock, payable November 15 to stockholders of record November 1.

DIVIDEND NOTICES

FINANCIAL MEETINGS

Reflexes of War

The advancing price of silver in the United States and throughout the world generally has affected the exchange market in Honduras. Two years ago $1 in gold was worth $3 in silver. Last month the rate reached two for one, and the rate at present is $1.95 for gold drafts on the United States, and the banks pay $1.90 for them in silver. The effect is to unsettle business conditions, owing to the uncertainty as to the price of silver, and merchants are disposed to delay meeting obligations with the hope that their silver will enhance in value and go further than at present in liquidating their liabilities. The effect also is to enhance the price of commodities, inasmuch as payment is generally made in silver, the value of which is enhancing, while prices remain stationary or advance in consequence of the general enhancement of prices in the markets of the United States.

An arrangement has been concluded between the British and French governments which provides that the importation into France of woollen and cotton hosiery and of jute textures of British origin shall be subject to licenses issued to importers by the Minister of Commerce within the limits of quotas fixed for those concerned on the basis of their imports in the year 1916.